

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Atanasova Atanasova

Member of the Scientific Jury appointed by Order RD-16.018 / 23.02.2022 of the Rector of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski";

Subject: **dissertation work** for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Scientific field: 2. Humanities; Professional field: 2.2. "History and Archeology" ; Scientific specialty: 05.03.06. History of Bulgaria (History of the Bulgarian Revival);

of **Dimitar Antov Videnov** , PhD student in part-time form in the doctoral program "History of Bulgaria" (History of the Bulgarian Revival), Professional field: 2.2. "History and Archeology" and Scientific field: 2. Humanities at the Department of History and Archeology.

On the topic: "Educational movement of the Bulgarians in the town of Haskovo during the Revival".

The dissertation work of Dimitar Antov Videnov presents a thorough and logically completed study, developed in a volume of 230 standard typewritten pages. It includes an introduction, four chapters each developed in nine separate paragraphs, a conclusion, appendices and a bibliography. The dissertation is properly structured and balanced. The volume of the text is acceptable for such scientific works. The language and style of the dissertation work are at good level.

The chosen topic allows to make significant contributions and conclusions based on the used source material. Even with the very title, Videnov gives a request that Haskovo is the leading cultural and educational center around which gravitate to nearby settlements and with which they exchange ideas, personnel and good practices in training and education during the Revival. That is why it is in the exposition presented the educational work, the Revival teachers and chitalishte activists both in Haskovo and in Harmanli, Dimitrovgrad, Svilengrad, Lyubimets, Yabalkovo, Krivo pole, Slavyanovo, Malevo, Stambolovo, etc. According to studies, in this geographical area fall between 280 to 300 settlements, of which 60 are Bulgarian (p.5).

An additional motivation for this dissertation work is the fact that so far no independent and in-depth study of education in the region of Haskovo has been conducted. For this purpose, Videnov summarizes all known facts and analyzes and interprets new unexplored documents.

The literature used by him includes 31 archival sources and personal funds of Revival educators - stored in the SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library – the Bulgarian Historical Archives; "Ivan Vazov" Public Library- Plovdiv, TDA - Plovdiv, Scientific Archive of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – Sofia (NA of BAS), TDA - Haskovo; archival funds in Regional Museum of History-Haskovo, Regional Museum of History - Dimitrovgrad, and Regional Museum of History - Harmanli.; 36 publications from the Revival and post-liberation media press, sources and memoirs; over 83 contemporary studies made by historians and local historians.

The goals and tasks set by Videnov, namely, to follow the development of the Revival processes in the field of education, to present the successful models created in Haskovo and surrounding villages, to emphasize the exchange of staff and ideas and to trace the different stages in the development of the educational work from the cell schools to the mutual and secular ones are

fulfilled. The role of women's and students' associations, as well as the community centers-chitalishtes- is also properly presented.

The research thesis has been successfully developed, using the problem-chronological principle and the methodology for complex approach and analysis in the exposition.

The first chapter of the dissertation work (pp. 17 - 27) is dedicated to Haskovo as an administrative and economic center in the Bulgarian lands from the 20s to the 70s of the XIX century with developed crafts and settled and fair trade. These facts explain the growing need of the population for European education and culture

The educational movement in Haskovo and in the region of Haskovo is presented in a logically and historically separate order in the second and third chapters (pp. 28 - 144). The Crimean War was a turning point in the development of the Balkans as a political, cultural and European development.

In the fourth chapter (pp. 145 - 201), the study gets a complete look with the presentation of community centers/chitalishtes in the Haskovo region during the Revival as cultural, educational, charitable, propaganda, social and even credit organizations and their constant role in emerging European and urban culture. Illustrative examples in this regard are the Chitalishte "Zarya" which was established in 1858 in Haskovo and the Slavic home in the village of Yabalkovo, for which the brothers Prosek, eng. Anton Pelz and Stanislav Dombrovski worked gratuitously.

The applications to the research are also commendable.

The dissertation work has indisputable scientific contributions. Dimitar Videnov has good professional skills to build and defend his research theses.

The most significant contribution among them is the attempt made to independently study of the educational movement in Haskovo and its surroundings during the Revival.

Among the main highlights of the dissertation work are: the role of teachers in the development of Revival social, economic and cultural processes; the practical knowledge and skills acquired by the Bulgarians as a major factor in the development of national self-awareness and receptivity to the ideas of political liberation; differentiation of the teaching staff by education, worldview, material and social status; organization of work and payment of the first educators; raising the role of the school and the community center/chitalishte as educational institutions, but also as propagandists of the ideas of the national revolution.

Contributing moment of this dissertation work remains the presented professional biographies of a number of Bulgarian teachers who worked in Haskovo and its region in the field of education, church and liberation movement and which biographies are successfully developed in the third paragraph of the third chapter of the dissertation (pp. 118 - 144). Among them stand out personalities such as Atanas Cholakov, Stancho Kozhuharov, Todor Zapryanov, Dimitar Dushanov, Stoyan Zaimov, Petar Berkovski, Mircho Popov, Ivan Vazov, Panayot Semerdzhiev, Dyalko Milkovski and Hristo pop Markov.

The analyzed facts and events in the dissertation work lead to the conclusion that education during the Revival period is a constant and integral part of the mechanisms that build the nation.

Educators and educational institutions contribute to the spread of culture and political views of independence among the population.

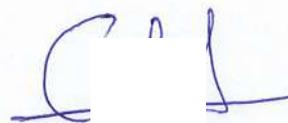
The presented abstract and the reference for the contributions from the doctoral student correspond to the content of the scientific work.

Dimitar Videnov has presented three publications on the topic of the dissertation. They reveal contributing moments from his research work, namely: The development of girls' education in the Haskovo region; The establishment of mutual schools and the methodology used by the Revival teachers; The Celebration of the Slavic educators Cyril and Methodius in this region.

Based on the presented exposition, I propose to the Honored Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Scientific field 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.2. "History and Archeology", Scientific specialty: History of Bulgaria (History of the Bulgarian Revival) to Dimitar Antov Videnov.

11.03.2022 г.

Veliko Tarnovo



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Atanasova